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THE REDISCOVERY OF AN HISTORIC COLLECTION OF MASSACHUSETTS PLANTS.

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MY time afield during the past summer was spent in Amherst, Massachusetts. In excursions, taken from that point as a centre, I found several plants of interest. For instance, *Coronilla varia* L. was new to me. It was well established and abundant at one point. On Sugar Loaf Mountain at the north and on one of the Holyoke Range on the south I found *Asclepias verticillata* L. At two places I observed *Asclepias tuberosa* L., the plants being very robust and the flowers strikingly handsome orange. *Potentilla recta* L. was seen once and *Lysimachia vulgaris* L. was collected by the roadside not far from the College. This last is a species not listed in recently published Catalogue of Amherst Plants by Prof. Stone. *Specularia perfoliata* (L.) A. DC., also new to me, was found in abundance on some of the mountains.

But what interested me as much as anything was the finding of an old and historic herbarium of significance in relation to our state flora. In the Appendix of the Seventh Annual Report of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture is a "Catalogue of Plants" (the publication mentioned as no. 126 of Miss Day's List of Local Floras of New England). It has been thought that this Catalogue of Plants, which is nothing but a bare list of names, was an attempt at a flora of Massachusetts. On page 139 of the above Report it is seen, however, that at one time there existed what was known as the State Cabinet or Agricultural Museum, consisting of actual specimens and embracing other branches of natural history as well as botany, it being stated

that the "Catalogue of Plants" is in reality a list of the specimens of a botanical nature contained in the State Cabinet.

This much I knew before reaching Amherst. I had already made inquiry at every likely place in Boston and vicinity and had not been able to discover this old herbarium. However, somebody at the State House seemed to remember that it had been turned over to the Massachusetts Agricultural College. Therefore, when I found myself at Amherst, I took the first opportunity to look up the College Herbarium and make inquiries. I found Prof. Stone, one of the members of our New England Botanical Club, in charge, and on explaining my quest he directed me to certain cases that contained an ancient herbarium, turned over to the College many years ago, which he thought came from the State House in Boston.

He very kindly placed the facilities of the laboratory at my service and later I examined the collection carefully. The plants have been kept intact, that is as a distinct collection. I compared them sheet by sheet with the published list in the Agricultural Report, which I obtained from the College Library and found an exact agreement — that is to say, every plant listed in the Catalogue had a representative, at least one sheet, in the herbarium, and I did not find any plants in the herbarium that were not given in the list. So I am convinced that the collection at Amherst is the old "State Cabinet" and that the botanical specimens are the basis of Flint's "Catalogue of Plants," published in the Seventh Annual Report of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture.

The specimens are stuck to sheets of soft bibulous paper with strips usually. Each sheet has two labels, one loose with a heading "Mass. State Herbarium" and the botanical name, the other pasted on the sheet and written in a different hand gives the botanical name, common name, date and sometimes the locality. I could not examine the entire collection in detail. Of the few that I did examine more particularly the following had localities indicated.

Juniperus virginiana L. Lincoln, June 14, 1834, near Flint's Pond.

Juniperus virginiana L. Malden.

Pinus resinosa Ait. Dr. Stearns, Sudbury. A botanical description of which I cannot find in any elementary works.

Typha angustifolia L. Charlestown.

Holcus odoratus L.

Poa aquatica, Malden, meadows, wet, 4 June, 1829.

Poa nervata, Malden, meadow, 4 June, 1828.

Ranunculus Cymbalaria, Chelsea, Brighton, C. River salt marsh.

This State Cabinet or, as it is called, Massachusetts State Herbarium is not mentioned in Miss Day's article "The Herbaria of New England," published in Vol. 3 of RHODORA. Now that the resting place of the collection has been located it is probable that a more careful examination of it than I was able to make would be well worth while.

WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS.

A NEW MARITIME POLYGONUM FROM NOVA SCOTIA.

M. L. FERNALD.

IN 1913 the writer pointed out¹ that the large-fruited glaucous *Polygonum* of the coastal sands of the eastern United States is *P. glaucum* Nutt., not *P. maritimum* L. for which it had long been mistaken; and that about the Gulf of St. Lawrence these large-fruited strand species are represented by *P. Raii* Babington, which is also found on the Bras d'Or Lakes of Cape Breton.

During the past July, finding it necessary to "kill time" for twelve hours between North Sydney and Pictou, Nova Scotia, Mr. St. John and the writer fortunately selected Grand Narrows on Bras d'Or Lake as a desirable place to investigate. There, on the gravel beach, *P. Raii* was abundant, as we had expected; but the chief surprise of our day was another large-fruited species growing with it in the gravels and quickly distinguishable as far as it could be seen by its color, the leaf-outline and the comparatively inconspicuous perianths, in which it strongly contrasted with the very glaucous and conspicuous *P. Raii*. The peculiar plant proves to be unique in the group to which it belongs, presenting characters which ally it to *P. Raii* on the one hand and to *P. Fowleri* Robinson on the other but which clearly separate it from each. It is here proposed as

¹ RHODORA, XV. 68-73 (1913).